

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County Department of
Animal Care & Control

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Congratulations to Us!



Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is pleased to announce that its Animal Control Division has been selected to receive the **2006 Outstanding Agency Award** from the National Animal Control Association (NACA).

According to Awards Committee Chair Debbie Dawson, "[Loudoun] County's nomination was considered along with those from other agencies from across the United States and selected as the agency that met the highest standards for an animal control agency."

NACA established the Outstanding Agency Award in 1989, and it is open to all member organizations. Per NACA, award selection is based on "effective training program[s] for personnel; outstanding/innovative public education programs; active community involvement; and average officer response time to calls for assistance."

In addition to their regular workload responding to requests for service, Loudoun County Animal Control was recognized for their active public presence and innovative programs. Animal Control hosted several training classes in 2006 to help further their own skills as well as those in other jurisdictions. Additionally, they created a program to provide pet oxygen masks to all of Loudoun County's Fire & Rescue stations, and conducted 12 training sessions on their use for Fire & Rescue personnel.

Join us in Leesburg May 19



Thinking of adopting a dog, but you can't seem to make it out to the Shelter? Then be sure to join us on **Saturday, May 19** at the County's 250th Anniversary Celebration in Leesburg! We'll be out and about with wonderful dogs looking for new homes. You might find your new best friend! We'll see you there!

A New Breed of Dog...

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter has discovered a new "breed" of dog **250 years in the making... the Loudoun County Retriever!**

They might be part Lab, part Poodle, or a little bit Boxer or Bichon, but on the inside, these dogs are 100% Loudoun County Retriever.

Loudoun County Retrievers come in all shapes and sizes. They can be small enough to fit in a handbag or as big as a person. Sometimes scruffy, sometimes smooth, these dogs come in every color of the rainbow. Their tails are long and lush or short and stubby, while their ears might hang low or stand up straight. They've got long legs, short legs, and everything in between!

Loudoun County Retrievers have one thing in common – they love all things Loudoun! On nice days, they can be spotted taking long walks on the W&OD

trail or hiking at Ball's Bluff. They enjoy shopping trips along Market Street and the more well-heeled variety are often spotted lunching in downtown Middleburg. They are well traveled pooches who welcome planes landing at Dulles Airport with a bark (or two).

Loudoun County Retrievers also love to go for car rides, enjoying the wind in their fur riding down Rt. 7 or Rt. 15. They love walking in their neighborhoods in Ashburn and South Riding, and can sometimes be seen on the sidelines at their favorite kid's soccer game.

The well-dressed Loudoun County Retriever never leaves home without a collar and county license. You can't see it, but they often have a microchip too!

The Loudoun County Retriever is a very popular and sought-after breed, and you can only find them in one place – the Loudoun County Animal Shelter! In



honor of Loudoun County's 250th Anniversary Celebration, May has officially been declared **Adopt a Loudoun County Retriever month!** All month long the Shelter will be showcasing Loudoun County Retrievers available for adoption. All dogs adopted in May will go home with an official Loudoun County Retriever registration certificate as well as an "I'm a Loudoun County Retriever" leash to show off their true breed! Come visit them today—you might find one of your own!

Shelter Alum Makes the Grade

When Chewy came to the Loudoun County Animal Shelter last December, he at first seemed like a typical, exuberant, young Labrador Retriever.

But Jenny Swiggart, Advanced Animal Care & Training Coordinator, saw something unique in Chewy. She noticed that he was incredibly toy-driven, and with an intense focus that never wavered.

Jenny continued to work with him, and came to realize that his play drive was something very special. She began to think that Chewy was made for bigger and better things.

As luck would have it, she was contacted by the Arlington Police

Department, who was on the lookout for exceptional dogs to join their K-9 program. One of the dogs in their training program had dropped out, and they were looking for someone to fill his space.

Chewy was renamed Koda and began his training as an explosive-detection dog in late January. After months of classes and exercises, we are pleased to announce that Koda has now graduated and is certified by the U.S. Police Canine Association. Koda will live with his handler, Arlington Police Officer Brian Morrison, and spend his days riding in the patrol car, responding to bomb threats and performing bomb sweeps for special events.

Congratulations Koda!



Employee of the Month

Michelle Prince is April's Employee of the Month! Michelle has been with the Department since 2006 as the Supervisory Animal Care Technician.

Since her arrival, Michelle has shown outstanding and unselfish work. As supervisor for the Animal Care staff, her effort and dedication in considering and balancing time off requests and requests for specific schedules has been outstanding. She has been able to accomplish this while ensuring the

shelter is always properly staffed. In addition to the schedules, Michelle works diligently to resolve problems and is always willing to take on some the less desirable work in the shelter. Her ability and enthusiasm to pitch-in and help as needed has earned Michelle great respect from both her staff and peers.

Thank you for all you do!

Congratulations Michelle!



What We're Up To...

Small Wonders

We are happy to be hosting the **Loudoun Small/Toy Dog Agility & Meetup Group** at the Animal Shelter May 5 & 12.

The group is aimed at giving small dogs and their owners a place to socialize and learn some new tricks! Their meetings at the Shelter will focus on the basics of clicker training and agility. For more information, or to join the group, visit:

<http://toydog.meetup.com/57/>

It's that time of year...

...when everyone seems to be suffering from seasonal allergies. Did you know your pet can be affected too?

Allergies in pets usually manifest with dry, itchy skin. You might notice your pet scratching or licking himself more than usual, and this can sometimes lead to painful sores. If you suspect your pet may have allergies, it's time for a trip to the vet. Vets can do a simple skin test to check for allergies, and may prescribe medication to help relieve symptoms.



Think Small

Gerbils and hamsters make great pets, and we have a wonderful selection available for adoption! Come see these cute little critters in person—we guarantee you'll fall in love!